

THE Bloomfield Record.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

S. MORRIS HULIN, Editor and Proprietor
Office 29 Broad Street

The services of the people, all the people, of our loved and honored state, I devote whatever of wisdom, whatever of patience, whatever of ability, I have to the cause to which I am committed.

GEO. MORRIS HULIN, Editor and Proprietor

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1896.

Governor Griggs.

Though devoted especially to purely local affairs, The Record makes a local matter of the recent inauguration of Governor Griggs, and prints, in addition to the press dispatches from Trenton this week, the inaugural address complete.

The audience that witnessed the simple ceremony last Tuesday in Taylor's Opera House was representative of the State. The applause that greeted the address at various points was great.

A district whose boundaries had been originally delimited by the Township Committee acting jointly with the Township Superintendent, and not by a County Superintendent, acting under the general school law of the State. But Number Seven is not the old original "special charter".

Central Union. Any attempt to treat the two as identical is an imposition on confounding minds. Number Seven is a general law district, erected under the general school law of 1867 by County Superintendent Davis, with boundaries very different from those of any "special charter" district previously existing.

It now rests upon the people of New Jersey to insist that the reforms outlined and suggested by the Governor shall not prove to be barren ideals, but be carried out in every particular.

What the "Special Charter" Business Means to Bloomfield.

We expressed last week the belief that few of the people, and possibly not all of the School Trustees themselves, have any idea of the quagmire into which they are now being steered by the discontents of the "special charter."

The promoters of litigation with the Borough say only that certain laws enacted for the benefit of Bloomfield nearly half a century ago take our school system out from under the operation of the general school laws of the State, and form an effectual barrier to the election of the Borough of Glen Ridge as a separate school district. As to the effect which the establishment of their claim would have upon Bloomfield's own schools and school system, they are industriously silent.

Yet the results of the "special charter" business concern the people of Bloomfield far more than they concern Glen Ridge. If this antique gun could be fired, the recoil would be about five hundred times more damaging than the projectile.

We shall try to state briefly a few truths which have been very carefully withheld from public knowledge by the ingenuous and industrious counsel.

1. The school law of 1894 does not prevent a borough's becoming an independent school district, except in cases where the old district is *acting* under a special charter. This word in the law has been persistently blotted. It is not enough that back in the forties and fifties in the primitive and unsettled stage of New Jersey's school law, there should have been certain special legislation for Bloomfield in regard to forms and proceedings long since obsolete and forgotten, but have raked up for an occasion and offered as a "special charter" good enough to throw at Glen Ridge. The old district must be *acting* under the provisions of its special charter; and acting is a particle in the present tense.

2. Bloomfield was admittedly not acting under any special charter at the time the Glen Ridge district was set off by the County Superintendent; for Number Seven in the previous year had voted itself in under that same general law of 1894, adopting all of its provisions and uniting thereby with the old Brookdale district under the new township district system. This step of enlightened progress is now extremely inconvenient for the too ingenuous counsel. To get over the enormous difficulty it presents, they profess to believe, as we understand, that the admitted adoption of the general school law of 1894 by Bloomfield was illegal, an act of unconscious wrong committed in temporary forgetfulness of the existence of the glorious old special charter of '49. They are therefore floundering about in the muddle they have created, trying to find some

practical way to get rid of Brookdale again, to get back into the office of the Trustees who went out in 1894, and in other respects to restore Number Seven to the conditions existing previous to its unconsciously illegal adoption of the general school law of 1894; as if that would help them at all.

3. Now we approach the "special charter" itself, a precious instrument whose exact provisions and requirements the counsel who discussed it have refrained from advertising very extensively here in town. What are these special provisions and requirements under which, if Glen Ridge is not really a separate district, Number Seven must have been acting in February, 1895; or at least, according to the counsel's view, in the spring of 1894? Here are some of them:

Jurisdiction from outside the Board exercised not by a County Superintendent but by a Township Superintendent, an office abolished twenty years ago;

Money raised for the schools not by State and district taxes, but by a general township tax not exceeding \$2,500; a practice abandoned twenty years ago;

Limited power to vote money at special meetings for land purchase and school building; but no "special charter" power whatever to bond for these purposes; and, lastly,

A district whose boundaries had been originally delimited by the Township Committee acting jointly with the Township Superintendent, and not by a County Superintendent, acting under the general school law of the State. But Number Seven is not the old original "special charter".

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A Novel Fire Escape.

The exhibition of a pocket fire escape by Mr. George A. Rutherford, which we announced in our last week's issue, occurred last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The special feature of this little instrument is the steel tape, tempered with a sole regard to tensile strength and flexibility, and made to take the place of the cords, ropes and wire used heretofore so extensively used in portable fire-escapes. Mr. Rutherford used, in the machine as a fire-escape, would, first, low-charge Charlie Hall and afterwards came down twice himself, bringing the little escape with him. The steel tape, which is capable of sustaining 1500 pounds, at no time looked larger than a cord, and Mr. Rutherford showed his complete control over his machine by starting and stopping it with both hands. He is himself during their descent. It was unfortunately necessary to have a beam projecting from the window; this was done to save nailing the woodwork, ordinarily a hook is furnished with the machine, which is screwed in the window frame and is enough, making the entire apparatus for escape capable of being carried in the pocket.

Chief Oakes, Mr. Tower and other prominent firemen witnessed the exhibition and expressed themselves as being very much pleased with the machine. While Mr. Rutherford was still seated in his fire escape, several feet from the ground, Mr. Tower and others added their weight, but Mr. Rutherford easily held the brack which controls the descent, with one hand. Funeral services were held at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Mount Murray. Bloomfield council C. B. L. turned out in a body. The pall bearers were, Michael Owens, C. F. Woods, Charles Murray, Sr., Thos. Kiley, John Houan and Michael O'Hara, members of the Legion. Interment was made in Mt. Olivet cemetery. Mrs. Margaret, widow of the late John P. Boyd, died at her home, No. 33 Orchard Street, early Wednesday morning, of a stroke, aged 55 years. One daughter Anne survives her. Mrs. Boyd retired on Tuesday apparently in the best of health, but shortly afterward complained of feeling unwell. Doctors Van Giesen and White were hastily summoned but could do nothing for the patient. Mrs. Boyd was a member of the Park M. E. Church. Funeral services will be held from her late residence Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

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